

THE WORKFORCE WORD

Events in November

Job Fairs

Nov 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Nov 11 - Veterans Day

Nov 24 - Thanksgiving

The Atlanta Workforce Development Agency's First Source Employment Unit recently followed up on the success of customer Curtis Garner. Garner relocated to Atlanta from Tampa, Florida and sought AWDA resources to obtain permanent employment. After attending an AWDA orientation, researching career fields, and working directly with the Employment Unit, Mr. Garner enrolled in AWDA's ISI Training Course where he received training in Electrical Maintenance & Customer Service. Through this innovative and enlightening program, AWDA facilitated most of his preparation. As a result,



Curtis Garner & M.C. Dean Exec. Program Mgr. Greg Kraning work to rewire a fuse panel.



Garner excelled beyond M.C. Dean's math, reading, and electrical skills requirements on their assessment exams. M.C. Dean, a First Source Employer and Electrical Contracting Firm working to help renovate Hartsfield-Jackson Airport interviewed, tested, and hired Mr. Garner within weeks of meeting him at an AWDA On-Site Job Fair. Now, Mr. Garner will work and train for his Journeyman's License with M.C. Dean for the next 4 years. Mr. Garner wanted to extend a personal thank you to Mr. Blanchard Cooke of the First Source Employment Unit for having a vested interest in his future and diligently working to ensure he attained full-time employment. "Because of Mr. Cooke and AWDA I accomplished more than I ever imagined."

ISI (Instructional Systems Inc.)

AWDA continues to promote interactive computer training through its comprehensive software package, ISI (Instructional Systems Inc). ISI instructs users with the knowledge necessary for success in their professional discipline. While allowing users to work at their own pace, Mekia Goodbee and Keith Gulley facilitate the training process to actively include Customer Service Awareness education, a facet of the City of Atlanta's own initiative for its employees.

Currently ADWA actively recruits and trains interested clients seeking to enhance their industry expertise and those transitioning into alternate professional careers. ISI has the capability to educate and provide a person with the skills necessary to pursue an occupation in a variety of high demand fields. Current and interested customers can find out more information about ISI and applicable job openings by coming to Orientation at AWDA's One-Stop Career Center or contacting Mekia Goodbee (404) 526-9741 or Keith Gulley (404) 230-1604.



Keith Gulley assists Mr. Millard Murray from the Center for Working Families with his ISI training.

Next Step... "The Atlanta Promise" will welcome back its pilot Graduating Class of 2005 on December 21st at the 1st Next Step Holiday Reunion. The college students will return to AWDA's One-Stop Center to interact with their peers and Next Step staff. Having completed a full semester and returning to Atlanta for Winter break, each student can express interests, concerns, and provide feedback on their college experiences. The next "Meet the Mayor" is scheduled for December 10th. Current Seniors in the 2006 graduating class will have the opportunity to personally speak with Mayor Franklin, while meeting local and national employers and universities.

Last Meet the Mayor session, students boarded and used the high-tech computers and entrepreneur resources on the Black McDonald's Operators Association's (BMOA) Wheels of Dreams Bus.



Mayor Franklin recently visited Carver High School. She has personally visited all 10 Atlanta Public High Schools and extended invitations to her "Meet the Mayor" Saturdays at AWDA's One-Stop Center.

Atlanta Workforce Development Agency Co-Hosts Fundraiser for Evacuees. Continuing in its efforts to raise awareness and resources for Gulf Coast evacuees in Atlanta, on November 9th, the Atlanta Workforce Development Agency (AWDA) co-hosted a benefit with fashion house Perry Ellis at Macy's Lenox Square.

From 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., AWDA collected toys and donations for displaced families. Mayor Shirley Franklin and AWDA Executive Director Deborah Lum gave updates on City of Atlanta's ongoing efforts to assist Gulf Coast evacuees. One of the primary ways that the City and AWDA have offered assistance has been through AWDA's One-Stop-Center, a central locale for residents in need of work, professional attire, resume assistance, and training.

In addition to donated funds and toys, 10 percent of Perry Ellis' Sportswear sales on November 9th were donated to an evacuee support fund. Collections made at the benefit will be distributed to evacuees through AWDA and the City of Atlanta.

During the benefit, Electric Violinist Ken Ford and New Orleans Jazz Musician Clarence Johnson, performed for guests. Proceeds from the sale of Ford's album that night went to the evacuee support fund.

For more information on AWDA's One-Stop-Center or its weekly job listings visit www.atlantaworkforce.org



Electric Violinist Ken Ford serenades patrons with tracks from his most recent album, Chevelle Lane.



Mayor Franklin poses with Jazz Saxophonist Clarence Johnson before he performs. A New Orleans local, Johnson now resides in Atlanta.



Toys and games collected at the event for Displaced Gulf Coast Children that will be distributed as Christmas gifts.



Patricia Hutchinson & Roberta Morris circulate marketing materials featuring services & resources for Katrina Evacuees.



Evans Spencer & Jennifer Tucker will work collaboratively to assist displaced Gulf Coast residents who have relocated temporarily and permanently to Atlanta.

As of November 22, 2005 Atlanta Workforce Development Agency gained another valuable resource in assisting affected Gulf Coast Hurricane Katrina Evacuees. Jennifer Tucker, a licensed therapist with child advocacy experience, officially joined AWDA staff as the official counselor for displaced Gulf Coast residents and evacuees. Jennifer will be working with AWDA for the next 6 months thanks to a special grant from the Georgia Department of Labor to the City of Atlanta to provide psychological evaluations and assistance to evacuees. Emotional Support, Individual Counseling, Crisis Intervention, and Coordinating Support Groups are just some of the services that Jennifer will facilitate. She's working with AWDA Veteran consultant Evans Spencer, and together they will frequent local hotels and shelters lodging evacuees. By coordinating relief services with local churches and providing access to resources for Evacuees, the team will create an ongoing accurate assessment of immediate client needs. For more information on how to support the City of Atlanta and AWDA in assisting displaced Gulf Coast Residents visit: www.atlantaga.gov & www.redcross.org

"I am the City of Atlanta: Committed to serving you" For the past 2 1/2 years, Maria Cepeda has allowed AWDA to further reach out and incorporate numerous cultures and people into programs at the One-Stop Center. As the Front Desk Manager, Maria has the responsibility of interacting with almost all of the Agency's visitors, regular patrons, customers, clients, and employees. Maria loves this aspect of her job and strives to ensure that every interaction at AWDA, especially the first, is enjoyable and inviting. A Mexican-American, Maria is fluent in both Spanish and English, an advantage that she incorporates into her duties when speaking to diverse clientele that frequent the One-Stop Center. In fact, it's the mixture of cultures, races, and communities that Maria enjoys most at AWDA, "I had never met so many diverse people until I came to AWDA." Besides incessantly screening phone calls and assisting visitors throughout the day, Maria helps to facilitate the influx of crowds and visitors every morning for Orientation, and especially at Tuesday Job Fairs. Because of her intense dedication, the daily operations of AWDA will continue to function efficiently. As an agency we're grateful and thankful for Maria's devotion and commitment.



Maria Cepeda assists customer Rickey Taylor

AWDA Board Meeting

The Atlanta Workforce Development Agency Board held its final meeting of the year on November 16, 2005. Mayor Shirley Franklin was present to highlight some of the key initiatives and programs of the Agency. Following the Approval of Agenda and review of Committee Reports, Performance Standards, and the 2006 Schedule, the Board stopped to recognize the efforts of Mayor Franklin and her initiative Next Step... "The Atlanta Promise" in an official letter than can be viewed at www.atlantaworkforce.org



2005 was a productive and successful year for the Atlanta Workforce Development Board and Agency as a whole. As Atlanta continues to grow, this Agency will help to economically empower its residents through its vast network of services and programs.

Congratulations on Years of Service to the City of Atlanta!!!



Doris Lucas (left) & Thomasene Blount-Roberts (right) hold pendants celebrating their years of service to The City of Atlanta. Executive Director Deborah Lum (Middle) recognized their commitment at a recent staff meeting. Doris has been with the city for 15 years and Thomasene has worked as a city employee for 10 years. Each has worked in multiple capacities and offices ranging from Human Services to City Council.

Happy Thanksgiving!!!



In recognizing years of servitude to the great City of Atlanta, AWDA must highlight the recent retirement of our own Dr. Blondie Perry-Christian. "Blondie," as everyone affectionately called her, was honored at a special luncheon on her last day of work on November 30, 2005. After giving a brief speech and distributing ceremonial cake to all of her co-workers, Blondie resumed working in the AWDA Resource Library, assisting customers with creating and managing resumes. Having worked in a variety of capacities and departments within city government, Blondie stands as a representation of persistence, having worked for more than 30 years.

Composed by: Jae Scarborough; Contributions from Ayanna Hunt, Thomasene Blount-Roberts & Doris Lucas
Edited by : Michelle Hunter